

MEETING #590

MINUTES OF MEETING

GRAND FALLS-WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2024

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor: Mike Browne
 Councillors: Amy Coady, Holly Dwyer, Bob Hiscock,
 Andrew Little, Dave Noel
 Staff: Darren Finn, Chief Administrative Officer
 Nelson Chatman, Director of Public Works and
 Development
 Steve Gosse, Director of Corporate Services\Town
 Clerk
 Robyn Hannaford, Communications Officer

Prior to the meeting Deputy Mayor Browne signed Proclamations for Purple Day for Epilepsy and Green Shirt Day.

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and asked for any errors or omissions to the Minutes of Meeting #589 of March 5th, 2024.

Motion
Hiscock\Noel

Be it resolved that the Minutes of Meeting #589 of March 5th, 2024 would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Councillor Dwyer presented the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,411,765.42.

Motion

Dwyer\Noel

Be it resolved that the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,411,765.42 would be received as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Little.

MMSB Funding Approval

The Director gave the Committee an update on the funding application approval from the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board to purchase a woodchipper. This equipment will be used at the compost site as well as onsite jobs around Town where brush is a concern.

4th Grand Falls Beaver Colony Correspondence

The Committee reviewed the correspondence from the 4th Grand Falls Beaver Colony requesting the use of Department equipment during their 50th Anniversary celebrations schedule for this summer.

The Committee recommends that the Community Services Department assist the group with the requirements as per our Community Loan Out Policy. The Committee also recommends that we honor this special accomplishment with the presentation of a plaque highlighting the 50th Anniversary of Beavers in Canada.

Stewardship Association of Municipalities

The Director informed the Committee that the planning for the SAM meetings, being hosted in Grand Falls-Windsor on April 19th-20th, are well

underway and all Councillors are encouraged to participate in the sessions during the weekend.

Town Band Invited Guest – Mike Snelgrove (6:00 P.M.)

The Committee received a presentation from Mike Snelgrove on the Town Bands invite to St. John's for a workshop, training and performance opportunity to take place this May. Mr. Snelgrove gave a historical background of the group, the community events that they play for, and their significance to the Town for new and existing residence.

The Committee recommends that the Director of Community Services meet with Mr. Snelgrove to discuss their requirement and to provide some financial assistance to offset their costs.

Calibre Mining Correspondence

The Director informed the Committee that we have received their community allotment from Calibre Mining for 2024. This year's allotment will be used for the Kelly Ford Exploits Valley Salmon Festival, Perfectly Centered Culinary Festival and for the Christmas Light-Up. The Committee would like to sincerely thank Calibre Mining for the community allotment and looks forward to working with the company on future community projects.

Mid-Winter Bivver Update

The Director informed the Committee that the 11th Annual Mid-Winter Bivver scheduled for March 8th-9th has been cancelled due to poor weather and unsafe ride conditions along the scheduled route. The Department will look at options to host a one-day event if the conditions allow in the next month and will look at dates and start planning for 2025.

Special Events Update

The Director informed the Committee that program plans for the spring and fall are well underway. Programs planned include the MUN Nursing Student Burger Bowl Event on March 14th, Seniors Bowling Event on March 21st, the Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th, 2024, and the 90's Dance Event scheduled for May 4th. The Committee reminds residents that events will be promoted through our Town's Facebook page and to be attentive to the dates and times of registration because some events have limited availability.

Ticket Program Update

The Director informed the Committee that training has been ongoing for the Town's new online ticketing software program and that it will be used for ticketing to most events and programs moving forward.

Youth Advisory Committee.

The Director informed the Committee that work is still ongoing to start up a Youth Advisory Committee in the community.

The Committee recommended that the Community Services Staff work with the local high school and local post-secondary institutions to identify youth representatives for this Committee and report back at a future meeting.

New Business

Curling Bonspiel

The Committee had some discussion about the Curling Club's 1st Bonspiel in a few years.

The Committee recommends that the Director check with the Club to see if space is available for the Bonspiel, and if available, the Town should enter a team.

Program Entertainment Options

The Director informed the Committee that several entertainment acts have approached the Department to see if there is any interest in hosting 2024 events.

The Committee discussed the possible shows but recommends not hiring any additional acts that are not budgeted for in 2024 at this time.

Woodland Primary School

The Director informed the Committee that he has received a request from Woodland Primary School for use of a piece of Town equipment for March 19th.

The Committee recommended that the Director assist the school as per our Loan Out Policy.

School of Nursing

The Director informed the Committee that he has received a request from the 2027 Nursing Class looking for Town swag for an event that the Class is hosting.

The Committee recommends the Director work with the group and assist where possible.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Little\Coady

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Dwyer noted some of the special events planned have taken place and some are still upcoming. She and Deputy Mayor Browne were able to attend the MUN Nursing Student Burger Bowl which ended up being a Pizza Bowl. It was well attended, and the nursing students certainly appreciated the Town hosting the event for them. It is important that we continue to build relationships with our nursing students because we are in a situation where it is crucial that we try to retain our nursing students. The whole point of having a Nursing School here is that hopefully those graduates will someday want to live in Grand Falls-Windsor and start families here, and then we won't be in the crisis that we are in right now with respect to healthcare workers.

Deputy Mayor Browne agreed it was a great evening, and he was impressed with the number of people in attendance, and he knows they were very grateful to the Town for putting it off. We were glad to see the Curling Club were able to open this winter, especially when it looked for a long time that due to mechanical failures they would not. He expressed congratulations to the Executive for their determination to keep the Curling Club open in Grand Falls-Windsor and they look forward to more members joining next season. The Town of Grand Falls-Windsor will assist in any way possible to ensure that curling is a sport here in Grand Falls-Windsor that can be enjoyed by anybody who would like to participate. The meeting with the Town Band was a great meeting, and the only complaint they have is that they do not get to play often enough because they are not asked to. The Grand Falls-Windsor Town Band is only one of three (3) bands that are a part of the municipalities in Newfoundland and Labrador, so we are very fortunate to have them, and we are only too happy to assist. We will try to get them to play more often at events, so people can look forward to seeing more of

the Town Band. The Mid-Winter Bivver that we had hoped to reschedule is now not going to happen because we have been having nice weather and the snow is leaving us, which is unfortunate for those that enjoy the Mid-Winter Bivver, but we will try again next year because it is a great event. This event is always well attended by people not only in Grand Falls-Windsor, but across the island and even in Atlantic Canada, so we will try again next winter for sure.

Corporate Services

The following report was presented by Councillor Dwyer.

Labour Report

The Committee reviewed the labour costs as of week nine (9). Total labour was \$599,070. This was \$24,331 (4.2%) over budget.

The Committee recognizes the amount of extra work that has occurred recently, from snow events to water breaks, to emergency plant maintenance at our stadiums. The Committee thanks staff for their efforts so far in 2024 and encourages Management to continue to monitor the labour budget as we move along in 2024.

Tax Receivables Analysis

The Committee reviewed tax receivables as of February 29th, 2024. Total receivables at the end of February 2024 are \$17,903,724 (2023 was \$17,324,018 – a 3.4% increase).

Collections remains a top priority for staff moving forward and the Committee recommends staff to utilize all avenues for tax collection to ensure improvement is made in this area in 2024. Residents and businesses are reminded that the deadline to pay your taxes without interest is coming up on Monday, April 1st, 2024.

Disbursement Report

The Committee reviewed the Disbursement Report in the amount of \$1,411,765.42 and recommends this be presented at the next Council meeting.

Resident Correspondence – Vine Street

The Committee reviewed correspondence from a resident on Vine Street who was recently provided with a bill for the costs related to the demolition of their property.

The Committee recommends staff respond to the correspondence to better explain the charges included on the invoice.

Correspondence – Business Tax

The Committee reviewed correspondence from a local business owner regarding the level of taxation on their business.

The Committee recommends staff reach out to the business owner to have a discussion about their taxes and to answer any additional questions the business owner may have.

Asset Management Policy

The Committee reviewed a draft policy regarding Asset Management for the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor. The policy is intended to guide staff and Council in making decisions relating to the maintenance and replacement of infrastructure, facilities, and other assets.

The Committee recommends this policy be adopted as presented.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Dwyer\Little

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Dwyer said it isn't often that we see our labour costs over budget, but the few snowfalls that we had since the beginning of the year contributed to that. In terms of the taxation receivable analysis, we have a 3.4% increase, and we would like to see it come down so will be putting more effort into receivables; however, an explanation for the increase would be that our assessments have gone up, and that would account for the increase.

Deputy Mayor Browne agreed that we have had more snow events this winter than we had in the previous winter, which would certainly drive up our costs, along with the maintenance issues in both of our Stadiums. We are fortunate

to have two (2) Stadiums, and to have great staff that were able to keep them both open during that difficult time. The Asset Management Policy is a great policy to have when it comes to managing assets. What we will be able to do after that project is complete is determine when and where infrastructure needs to be replaced before it must be replaced. We just completed a big infrastructure project on Union Street this past summer which is now logged so that in fifty (50) years' time there will be a theoretical notification that Union Street infrastructure is due for new infrastructure due to the last replacement being is 2023. If this had been available to use before, infrastructure may have been replaced in a timely manner and it is quite possible we would not be having the discoloured water issues we have been having lately.

Public Works and Development

The following report was presented by Councillor Coady.

Water Quality

The Committee was presented with a report from Mr. Reg Hedges of AllNorth Consultants Ltd. regarding the water quality issues that the Town has been experiencing. Mr. Hedges remained at the meeting for further discussion and to answer questions about his findings. The report does indicate that the main issue is a result of old cast iron piping in areas with low flow. One of the key recommendations is to consider automatic flushing valves in these key areas. Mr. Hedges noted that the efforts of Town staff to mitigate the issues are commendable and he has confidence in their abilities and knowledge.

The Committee recommends that staff focus on the key recommendations of the report and follow up with the cost of equipment and material to complete the work.

Mr. Hedges and Mr. Clendenning left the meeting at 6:10 P.M.

29 Bond Street

The Committee reviewed a request for land adjacent to the property at 29 Bond Street that was formally First Avenue in the Town of Windsor. This land has been used by both the residents of 29 Bond Street and 176 Main Street for their driveways.

The Committee recommends staff bring more information on the use and permits issued at a future Committee meeting.

296A Grenfell Heights

The Committee reviewed a request from staff on purchasing a piece of property at 296A Grenfell Heights. This property is in a proposed future subdivision in the Town's long-term planning. The land is estimated to be approximately three (3) hectares.

The Committee recommends staff begin negotiations for a price for the property and to bring back to the Committee for consideration.

7 Church Road – Outside Patio Area

The Committee reviewed a request from the owner of 7 Church Road to permit use of an outside area by patrons of the Grand Rodeo. Municipal approval is required to expand the NL Liquor License to include this area. The Regulations note that Council can permit such use.

The Committee recommends this be approved.

Rezoning Request – Queensway

The Committee reviewed a request from E-Z Property Holdings Ltd. to rezone a parcel of land west of their current property at 42 Queensway. The request is to rezone this land from Conservation (CN) Zone to High Density Multi Unit Residential (RM-2) Zone to facilitate construction of another four (4) unit building.

The Committee recommends this be approved and to begin the rezoning process.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Coady\Dwyer

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Coady noted the presentation of the report by Mr. Reg Hedges of AllNorth Consultants Ltd. was excellent and very informative, with a lot of great information. They are working on the flushing program and that will be straightened out in the next little while so we can start utilizing those changes in the spring which should help with some of the water discoloration that we have been experiencing. Mr. Hedges went into a lot of detail and made some

recommendations on things that we can try to improve the issues. We are going to continue to do the work and use these recommendations to hopefully resolve any of the discoloration issues that we are having, and we look forward to seeing positive results. The rezoning on Queensway is the area next to the Esso, where the two (2) quadplexes are currently so that will be the third quadplex. We are very happy to see that this is going to move forward, as we are in desperate need of housing in our community. We need to do our best to make sure that these building requests happen because we want our community to grow. We need to have places for people to live, so she encouraged residents to continually watch the Town Facebook page and follow along with the meetings because there will be instances of rezoning notifications and discretionary use notices now as we move forward with plans for additional housing.

Committee of the Whole

The following report was presented by Counillor Noel.

Citizen Request at 66 Goodyear Avenue

A citizen requested a meeting with Council.

The Committee recommends staff arrange for the resident to meet with the Committee at a future scheduled meeting.

29 Bond Street Property Transfer

A lawyer representing individuals purchasing the property has requested the transfer of a section of land.

The Committee recommends staff follow up with the lawyer, providing information from Town records and supporting the transfer as needed.

Housing Accelerator Fund

The Committee discussed the status of the application and recommends that staff follow up with CMHC for an upgrade and develop options for utilizing potential funds to support Town development in 2024.

Electric Charging Stations

Staff reported that \$100,000 was approved from the Pollution Probe Foundation that is intended to go towards installing electric charging stations at an estimated project cost of \$200,000.

The Committee recommends accepting the Agreement and planning the development of electric charging stations parking areas in 2024.

Grenfell Heights Extension Road Transfer

The Committee discussed a tentative Agreement with the Provincial Government to transfer a section of road for \$1, with an additional \$607,579 grant provided from the Provincial Government for upgrades.

The Committee recommends working to finalize the Agreement and then proceeding with the planned road upgrades in 2024.

Road Patching Initiatives

The Committee discussed their recent observations about potholes emerging from the spring thaw.

Due to these emerging potholes, the Committee recommends that staff focus on filling potholes and maintaining roads until more substantial patching can be done in the summer.

CNVAS Organization Space Request

CNVAS is requesting a meeting to discuss their space needs.

The Committee recommends arranging a future meeting time to discuss the organization's space and rental support needs.

Snow Clearing on Maloney Street

Following complaints about inadequate snow clearing on a section of Maloney Street, the Committee recommends discussing the issue with supervising staff to prevent any future oversights.

I move the recommendations and report of this Committee.

Motion

Noel\Little

Be it resolved that these recommendations and report would be adopted as circulated. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Deputy Mayor Browne said some areas of the island have already received an announcement that they will receive the Housing Accelerator Fund, so we anticipate the same good news will come our way as it will do a lot to improve the housing needs here in Grand Falls-Windsor. We received a \$100,000 grant for electric cars charging stations that will be installed this summer, which is great news because it will entice people to stop in Grand Falls-Windsor to charge and they will get a chance to explore our beautiful Town. When he was first fortunate enough to be elected on Council in 2016, he met with a family on Grenfell Heights Extension about the poor condition of the road down there, and finally the Provincial Government is going to turn over the road to us and include an over \$600,000 grant to pave the section. Once we obtain ownership of the roadway, we will be responsible for snow clearing and maintenance and he realizes the people on Grenfell Heights Extension will be truly happy because it has been a long time coming. We have had some great weather lately and we are making a lot of headway with respect to patching the potholes around Town, and we will continue with that until we are able to go out in the summer and permanently repair them.

The following Resolution was also presented by Councillor Noel:-

RESOLUTION GF-W 2024-383

GRENFELL HEIGHTS EXTENSION

TRANSFER AGREEMENT

WHEREAS: the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor desires to accept an Agreement from the Government of NL to transfer ownership of Grenfell Heights Extension;

WHEREAS: this Agreement will provide funds from the Government of NL to the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor agrees to enter into a Transfer Agreement with the Government of NL to provide support and upgrades at the end of Grenfell Heights and

will receive the sum of \$607,579.30 to help with these upgrades.

Motion

Noel\Dwyer

Be it resolved that Resolution GF-W 2024-383 would be adopted as presented. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

NOTICE OF MOTION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Dwyer advised this past week we held the Kiwanis Music Festival here in Grand Falls-Windsor and it is something that was a big part of her family's life while her children were growing up and it is great to see that post COVID the numbers are starting to increase. She was able to attend several events including family night, solo speeches, choirs and represented Council at the Highlights of the Festival on Friday, which was an excellent event that was very well attended. This was the 57th Kiwanis Music Festival and she wanted to thank the Club for keeping it going in our community, because it gives our children a great opportunity to gain confidence, develop work ethic, communication skills and so many other benefits that they do not even realize they will benefit from in the future. She wanted to thank the music teachers and the parents who encourage their children to get involved. This Festival not only provides benefits for our children, but it also brings a lot of business into the community for that week, which also is great. Last week several of us were able to attend Woodland Primary's "Welcome for the Special Olympians" which was a very nice event. The children lined up the halls and everyone cheered for the Special Olympians as they travelled through the school. It was just so nice and very heartwarming. The athletes truly represent sportsmanship and what sport should be about, it is one of the nicest events that she gets asked to attend as a Councillor and she is thankful for that.

Councillor Coady wanted to say congratulations to the Northcliffe Drama Club for a fantastic presentation "Whispers in the Dark". She and her mother went to see the presentation, which was their 2024 Provincial Drama Festival entry. It was a great job done by all involved. As she drove by Sutherland Drive

playground, she noticed that it was blocked solid with children playing due to the nice weather we are having, so she imagines that our speed bumps will go out soon. Until the speed bumps do go out, she encouraged motorists to please be careful and slow down. You should be careful all the time and watch your speeds, especially now that the weather is getting good, and the kids are getting outdoors. She stated that a lot of people are going outdoors for walks again, and she noticed that they are wearing a lot of dark clothing with no reflectors which makes it difficult to see them. She encourages all walkers to wear something reflective, if you are not, try to stay on the sidewalk and make sure you are crossing the road in lighted areas so that you can be seen. She also noticed crews out today patching potholes and asked that people have patience and if you do notice a pothole to let us know immediately by calling dispatch at 709-489-0420, so we can attend to it as quickly as possible, thank you.

Councillor Noel reiterated what Councillor Coady said that the walkers are out, and some are walking in the dark with no reflectors, sometimes on the wrong side of the road with headphones on. He is asking the public to put on something reflective to be safe. With the snow receding it is showing the evidence of the winter exposing litter, so he is asking businesses to take a minute to send an employee out and clean up around their business and property. An eclipse is coming up next week and he wanted to remind parents to check on the proper glasses to make sure that they are ISO approved because you don't want any eye damage from looking directly at the sun with inappropriate sunglasses. As the snow recedes and the ground warms up, the ticks are going to be out again. The tick population is significant, so he asked that dog owners check their pets over thoroughly or perhaps even and it would be a good idea to give your pet some tick medications before they go outside. Lastly, he recognizes Green Shirt Day and the tragedy of the Humboldt Broncos, and he wants to remind motorists that being an organ donor shows as a little red heart on your driver's license. He encourages residents that if you do not have the little heart on your driver's license and want to be an organ donor to go down to Motor Registration to make the change. He stated that he would like it to be default that you are an organ donor unless you opt out like it is in Nova Scotia and he encourages residents when they are talking to an MHA and other politicians to push it forward.

Councillor Hiscock advised this past Friday and Saturday he and our Chief Administrative Officer attended the Central Regional Meetings with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, which was a great event and well attended by all Central representatives of Councils. There was a lot of information with some great workshops and great topics were discussed. Hats off to Community Services Staff for keeping refreshments, meals and snacks coming to the meetings as they received a lot of compliments from those who attended the Conference on how

well it was organized, and the great job staff had done. Saturday, we attended our staff winter social, and it was well attended, and everyone had a great time, so thanks to the Organizing Committee for a job well done. Our Fire Department is one of the best well-trained Fire Departments in Newfoundland and are now recruiting. He asks if you are interested in joining to contact Chief MacKenzie or go to the Depot and get an application to fill out. Lastly, today Deputy Mayor Browne and I delivered Certificates honoring people with birthdays. They went to Twin Town Manor and gave a Certificate to Mary Hynes on her 90th birthday, and then they went to Kingsway Living to honor Mr. Leslie White on his 90th birthday, so “Happy Birthday” to them.

Councillor Little wanted to echo what Councillor Coady said about slowing down, because lots of kids are getting outside now. Next week we will be having all our Minor Hockey Teams travel or host tournaments for their Easter Provincial Tournaments, so we would like to wish all good luck. We have an Under 15A Tournament here next Thursday, Friday and Saturday which should be an excellent tournament as we have a very talented team, so he encouraged everybody to go down and support them.

Deputy Mayor Browne noted the YMCA Swimming Pool has a shortage of lifeguards, so the YMCA are holding a National Lifeguard Course the weekend of April 13th and April 20th. He encouraged anybody out there who is a good swimmer and would like to participate in the National Lifeguard Course to do so because you will probably get immediate employment because they are desperate for lifeguards. The swimming pool cannot open on Sundays because of the lack of lifeguards, so if you know anybody that might be interested in becoming a lifeguard, it is open to everybody of any age, just go to the YMCA to get registered. This week we lost one of our employees, Mr. Howard Sharpe or Howie as he was affectionately known. Our condolences to the family, he was a great guy with a big heart and a great sense of humor, and he will be missed. The Cataracts came up a little short last week and unfortunately lost the Championship Series to Deer Lake, 4 games to 1. It was a great season for the Cataracts, and they averaged almost 1,000 fans every game, which is very good for a 984-seat facility. Congratulations to Paul Glavine, the Executive, coaches, and the players who participated with the Cataracts and we look forward to next year. We wish the Deer Lake Red Wings all the best in the playoffs which begin this weekend at the CBS Arena. Lastly, the Cataracts lost a man this past week, Mr. Stanley Coffin, who had been President of the Cataracts since the early 2000’s. Stanley did all the Cataracts fundraising, all their book work, all their travel plans, raised enough money to win multiple Herders and the Allan Cup under his presidency. He didn’t just raise money for the hockey teams, he raised money for the Figure Skating Club and many other community groups in Grand Falls-Windsor. He was a man of

integrity, honesty, very well respected, and one of the greatest citizens of Grand Falls-Windsor. Our condolences to the Cataracts organization, his family, God speed Stan you will certainly be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Hiscock\Coady

Be it resolved that the meeting of the Grand Falls-Windsor Town Council would be adjourned until the next regular scheduled meeting of Tuesday, April 16th, 2024. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Mike Browne
Deputy Mayor

Darren Finn
Chief Administrative Officer